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And H.A.

P/16-223

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

New York, New York

HIGUMA et al.

Date: February 8, 2000

Serial No.: 09/370,659

Group Art Unit: 3739

Filed: August 6, 1999

Examiner: Unknown

For: **ENDOSCOPE CAPABLE OF BEING AUTOCLAVED**

Asst. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Delete the Abstract in its entirety and substitute therefor the Abstract attached hereto.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 15, line 13, after "consists" insert --of different sections,--.

Page 17, line 12, after "non-return" insert --(one way)--.

Page 25, line 1, change "hardly" to --rarely--;

line 8, change "has a small difference" to --are similar (having a small

difference)--;

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